

NHE News

New Hampton Elementary School September, 2011 Publication
Linda Kennedy, Elementary Principal



Mission Statement: The mission of the New Hampton Elementary School is to empower all students to succeed emotionally, socially, intellectually, and behaviorally in a changing world.

Guidelines For Success at New Hampton Elementary: The Six Pillars of Character Counts! Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship

New Hampton Elementary School
September Pillar: Caring

Our Big Bucket Motto:
Be caring! Be a bucket-filler!

Dear NHE Families:

When you came to the OFF conference meetings with teachers on August 16th, one of the handouts that you received was entitled: ***Parents: You Hold the Key!*** I so hope that you read it and take note of the things you can do to partner with us. You know the one that holds the key can get inside and make things happen in a positive way. That is you. Studies show that behind every successful student is a supportive parent, one who values education, speaks positively about it and is supportive and encouraging! Be an A+ Parent this year. Mrs. Kennedy

A+ Parenting: Back-to-School

Parents, kick off the school year the right way. Be involved and engaged in your child's education. This goes way beyond buying a backpack and some blank notebooks. There are some definite ways you can help your child be successful in school. They are:

*Make contact with the teacher. Open up the lines of communication between the most influential adults in your child's life, you and the teacher.

*Make it clear to your child that it is important to your family that effort is put into doing well in school.

*Track your child's progress and ask questions of your child so that you know he/she is engaged in daily school activities.

*Provide a quiet, interruption free space for kids to do their homework.

*Make sure your child isn't doing anything else, but homework. Multitasking just doesn't work.

*Keep plenty of reading material in the house and make sure your children see you reading for work and for pleasure.

Kids who thrive in school have parents who support their achievement in every way possible.

Backpack Chats!

"What's in your backpack?" Greet your child with this question and you will discover a lot about what happened that day in school. Set aside time each day to go through the papers in the backpack. Try to do it first thing when it is fresh in your child's mind. Look over your youngster's work together. Help your child feel proud by making a specific comment about something he/she has done. Talk through the math problems or the science project so that your child can

show what he/she has learned. Your child might share all about the story read in school that day or explain to you how to find the perimeter of a triangle. It won't take long, but your child will know you are interested, which will add to his/her motivation.

Back in First Grade at NHE

Mrs. Emily Sanford has been hired to teach in Room 10 on the first floor of the south wing of NHE. When she was taken into her classroom for the first time, she announced, "This was the classroom I was in when I was in first grade at NHE and Mrs. Bonnie Gage was my teacher." She even described how the room was set up when Mrs. Gage was her teacher.



Welcome to NHE: Mrs. Sanford. Emily Sanford is a graduate of New Hampton High School and is now back teaching 18 first graders and feeling very much at home.

Mrs. Sanford was hired two days before school began so she has already proven how fast and how hard she can work. When the parents met her at the OFF conference, she was hustling to get things ready for students. When the students arrived the following day, she was ready and eager to get the year underway.

School Business as Usual!



"We are first graders this year and ready for anything!"

When teachers were given the go ahead in August, they filed back into the building and got busy preparing their classrooms. It literally takes hours to set up a classroom and prepare curriculum for elementary students each year. I would venture to say from four to five days. Most of this time is offered to the school district by teachers. The first contract day was August 13th and most had their classrooms in order by that date so they could concentrate on the curriculum and planning learning activities.

More of NHE's classrooms have new epoxy floors and were painted during the summer. The rooms look great! Janitors and teachers are to be thanked and commended for their hard work. Area rugs have been purchased for each of these rooms so that students can comfortably sit on the floor for group discussions and projects.

Party in the Park

Students in grades 1 – 4 who completed the summer reading initiative were treated to a Party in the Park on Friday, August 31st. Grades 1 and 2 enjoyed their celebration in the morning ending with lunch at the park, while grades 3 and 4 left in time to eat lunch and party with fun and games in the afternoon. About 200 students, 70% of the grades 1 – 4 students read this summer in the presence of a parent who signed a

calendar that was returned on the first days of school.

Research shows that students who read and write throughout the summer will not experience the summer slide downward in their literacy skills. We will most certainly come up with another incentive during the summer of 2013 and we thank those parents who were supportive of this initiative this summer.

Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2012

The students of New Hampton Elementary will eat more fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and healthier entrees this year. A new law mandates that each student will now be required to have at least $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of fruit or vegetable or $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of each a vegetable and a fruit on their tray for it to count as a full meal.

In addition, there are many other food service requirements including whole grain pasta, rice, and bread, fat-free or low-fat milk, a reduction in sodium, weekly servings of dark green and orange vegetables, and weekly servings of beans and legumes.



Hunger Pains: During the summer, kids grow accustomed to snacking so when school starts, hunger pains can hit at anytime during the day.

I do not see that they are being offered any less food than last year at the elementary level. However, a good share of the students are not eating the fruits and vegetables put on their plates. During the month of September, food service will attempt to offer them choices each day in the kind of fruit and vegetable put on their plate. If they eat all of the food, they will surely not be hungry.

We need the support of parents to make this work. Staff in the lunchroom encourages students to try new foods and learn to like their whole grains, fruits, and veggies. Parents can do the same at home.

One little boy recently said to me, "I don't like pineapple and they put it on my plate anyway." I explained to him that is what we are supposed to do and that I hoped he would at least give it a try.

Parents are a child's primary role model. When children see their parents choose healthier foods, they are more likely to choose them as well.



A Healthy Sack Lunch: A first grader is proud to show off her sack lunch and well she should be. Her mother has packed a

sandwich, yogurt, green pepper slices and blueberries for her lunch.

Line Basics

Students will learn new Line Basics behaviors this year. Students are practicing these steps: face forward, voices off, arms to the side, and feet ready to walk and doing a great job. In the hallway, we added walking feet, appropriate space, and stay to the right.



Brain Breaks

This year NHE students will be taking brain breaks in between their classes and whenever they need to give their brain a break and a boost. Energizing brain breaks are quick 1 – 2 minute activities that refuel the brain, get the blood flowing in order to make the brain work more efficiently. Brain breaks do for the brain what stretching out your muscles does for your body.

We know our students need brain breaks when: they start fidgeting, they are having difficulty focusing, they are about to change activities involving a different level of thinking, or they have been sitting or standing for a long time.

Melanie Stewart, AmeriCorps worker for the Northeast Iowa Food and Fitness initiative, will come into the classrooms

the first week of school and introduce brain breaks to the students. In addition, students will continue walking twenty minutes each cycle to improve their physical fitness.



Grandma Pat: Pat Leichtman is a foster grandparent in our first grade classrooms again this year. We love Grandma Pat!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE AND A CHILD'S LIFE FOREVER?

Come join The Foster Grandparent Program. The Program offers senior citizens the opportunity to serve as mentors, tutors, and role models for children with special or exceptional needs. The program offers a modest tax free stipend, accident & liability insurance, physical, and earn Leave benefits, just to name a few of the advantages of being a Foster Grandparent. The Program has been in existence since 1972 (38 years).

For more information about the Program please call 641-257-6327 or stop by the Foster Grandparent office at 624 North Main Street in Charles City, IA. You might also want to visit with Grandma Pat Leichtman who currently serves our first graders as a Foster Grandparent.

New Hampton Elementary is the Place For Me!

**Visit Kennedy's Korner Blog
nhetimes@blogspot.com**

Giant Piggy Bank

The Giant Piggy Bank opened once again on August 21st. The bank is starting with deposits of more than \$104,756.63, which is the most the Giant Piggy Bank has ever had at the beginning of the year. The bank is the result of a great partnership between the school district and the Security State Bank.

On Friday, August 17th, twenty-fourth grade student bankers learned the banking skills of customer service and completing forms. These students will serve the bank as student bankers for the first and second quarters.

Through the banking experiences at the Giant Piggy Bank, students learn financial literacy, which is a 21st Century Skill identified in the Iowa Core Curriculum.

School Absences

Do you know how much your child misses out when he or she misses even one day of school? We certainly understand absences for illness or injury. ***Taking a child out of school for a shopping trip or a vacation should be avoided, if at all possible.*** Your child will miss the instruction and practice of knowledge and skills that are often very hard to learn after the fact or while they are away. Learning takes place in the classroom activities involved in the learning. We want to be accommodating, yet have experienced incidences where children's learning suffers due to these kinds of absences. We will be contacting parents whose absences and tardiness are excessive. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Reminders from the Elementary Office

Here are a few reminders as we begin the first semester:

*The school doors are locked throughout the day for the safety and security of your child. We do not want to meet an adult in the hallway that is not wearing a visitor's badge.

If you are entering the building during the daytime, come into the elementary office and sign in.

*Make sure that your child and your child's teacher know when there is a change in how he/she will get home from school. Being left at the door without knowing who is coming or how to get home is extremely stressful for a child.

* School attendance is essential for success in school. Please schedule medical appointments outside of school time, whenever possible.

*If your child is ill, please call the office (394-5858) before 9:00 on that morning to inform us. Make arrangements to pick up his/her homework later that day, if possible.

* Please check your child's contact information with the office and update, as necessary.

* Please be advised that you may request information on the qualifications of our staff at anytime.

* You are welcome to visit the school and classrooms. Let your child's teacher know if you are interested in visiting or helping out in the classroom.

* The NHE Handbook states that no invitations to a child's birthday party will be handled through the classroom. Be advised that due to the privacy laws of both the federal and state government, we are not allowed to pass out the names or any other information concerning students in a classroom.

*Just a reminder that bus students are dismissed at 3:20 and town people are dismissed at 3:25.

* You may feel free to contact me at anytime with specific information or questions concerning your child. Just call 394-5858 or e-mail me at l_kennedy@new-hampton.k12.ia.us

A partner in your child's education,

Linda Kennedy, Elementary Principal

Preschool Moments

One of our little preschool students wore a t-shirt to school that said, "What happens in preschool stays in preschool!" That is the way we feel, also.

Partners in Education

Each classroom of NHE has a local business or industry partner. We are grateful to our Partners in Education for partnering with us to enhance classroom instruction. PIE partners will demonstrate to students that the skills they are learning now will be the skills they will be using in the workplaces of tomorrow. Every classroom has a partner, a business or industry here in New Hampton that conducts at least a quarterly activity with the students. Teachers met and made plans with their partner sometime during the August inservice

New Technology at NHE

New Hampton Elementary classrooms have been blessed with new technology over the last few years. By the end of September, all of the K - 4 classes will have Promethean Boards in their classrooms. You can imagine the learning curve for teachers as new technologies come our way. The district will do our best to provide the training that is needed and the teachers will do their best to learn the ways of the interactive board. Preschool classrooms will soon be getting a few iPads to use with their children.

Priceless

I always enjoy getting into the classrooms and talking to the students about bucket filling. This year I had a great discussion with my kindergarten students about their own invisible buckets that held all of their good feelings. After my visit, one of the little students came up to me and said, "The next

time I have an X-ray, I am going to ask the doctor if he will show me my bucket!"

New Faces at NHE



Welcome, Mrs. Jodi Njus, second grade paraeducator in Mrs. Dixie Wakeman's classroom. Jodi worked in the middle school as a paraeducator last school year.

Familiar Faces in New Places

Janet Heeren has moved from teaching at the third grade program to the second grade program.

NHE's Bucket Fillers Team Members



Tyler Speicher, fourth grader, and Tierney Perkins, second graders, were the *first winners* of the Bucket Filler of the Week t-shirts at New Hampton Elementary. These two NHE students are fine examples of being kind to others.

Bank Iowa generously purchased t-shirts for NHE's Bucket Filling Program again this year. Each week, two lucky NHE

students will have his/her name drawn to become a team member of NHE's Bucket Fillers. Winners will be asked to wear their shirts every Monday as a reminder to all students to start each week out with their kindest behavior towards others.

The Bucket Filling Program was established at NHE as an anti-bullying program. Students from preschool through the fourth grade are taught the three concepts of Bucket Filling, a national program based on research conducted by psychologists, Tom Rath and Donald Clifton.

Parent Advisory Board Council

The following parents will once again serve on a Parent Advisory Board for New Hampton Elementary: Sarah Picker, Sally Kriener, Tammy Robinson, Andrea Rochford, LeEllen Sobolik, Jill Brincks, and Erica Steinlage. The first meeting will be Monday, September 24th at 12:00 noon in the elementary conference room. If you, as a parent, would like to serve on this council, please contact Linda Kennedy. We would like parents on this committee to represent our various grade levels and programs.

The First Days of School at NHE



Jolly Phonics Program: The teachers at the kindergarten level love the Jolly Phonics Program. So do the students. They are off to a great start with this program. Kindergarten students are singing the songs and doing the actions for each sound. Last year, this program proved to be a great way to deliver the instruction of the kindergarten standards and benchmarks to the students.

Kindergarten Smiles



Smiling and Sorting: Kindergarten students usually smile when they work! These students are busy sorting keys: shiny ones, rusty ones, big ones, small ones, and you know the rest.

Seriously, Blue Sand!



First day of Preschool: These students are exploring the looks and feel of blue

sand. They are having a great conversation as they explore ways to push it around, pour it, and pat it down in containers. Just a little of it got on the floor! That's okay!



First Grade Spelling: These first grade students are thinking hard and writing the spelling words being given to them by their teacher. Mrs. Kennedy was impressed at their spelling on the seventh day of school.

New District Website

The district has a new website and each day more and more information is added to it. Go to <http://www.new-hampton.k12.ia.us/>



Second Grade Activities: These two second graders were working collaboratively to sequence a story. After all, two heads are always better than one!



Third Grade Media Center Time: Third graders were so engrossed in a story read to them by Ms. Duneman, they hardly knew I was in the room with a camera.



SEPTEMBER EVENTS

3 - Labor Day (No School)

14 - Conflict Manager Training

17 - Measures of Academic Progress Testing Begins for Grades 3 and 4

18 - Mid-Term First Quarter (21 days)

19 - Early Childhood Cadre Meeting @ 1:30

24 - Parent Advisory Board Meeting - noon

26 - Two-Hour Late Start/Professional Development



Fourth Grade Rotations: Fourth graders have many adjustments at the beginning of the year and they are handling it well. They move from one room to the next for their content area activities and have to make sure they are ready with the right materials for each move. They have even learned how to do it with line basics and hall decorum.



Mrs. Hoy's Class: To start the year, Mrs. Hoy's class is a part of our fourth grade leadership group called Kids in Charge. Recently, Mrs. Kennedy met with Mrs. Hoy's students to talk about leadership and the ways they can demonstrate the traits of leadership for the PK - 3 students. In addition to acting like leaders of NHE, Kids in Charge deliver the morning message every morning and offer an escort service for the K - 3 students when there is a program or an assembly.

Weather-Related Cancellations will be announced on KWWL (channel 7), KIMT (channel 3), KCZE FM (95.1) radio and KOEL FM (92.3) radio, KCRR FM (97.7) and KDEC FM (100.5) or AM (1240).

